

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 20, 2002

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 1, 2002

SENATE BILL

No. 1863

Introduced by Senator Bowen

February 22, 2002

An act to amend Section 709 of, *and to add Section 884 to*, the Public Utilities Code, relating to public utilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1863, as amended, Bowen. Telecommunications services.

Existing law declares the Legislature's policies for telecommunications in California.

This bill would include, in the Legislature's policies for telecommunications in California, providing educational institutions, health care institutions, ~~community-based~~ *community-based* organizations, and governmental institutions with access to advanced telecommunications services in recognition of their economic and societal impact. *The bill would state the intent of the Legislature that the Public Utilities Commission should provide community-based organizations with comparable discounts for community technology programs, as defined, that are provided to schools and libraries to address inequality of access to advanced telecommunications services.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 709 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:

709. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the policies for telecommunications in California are as follows:

(a) To continue our universal service commitment by assuring the continued affordability and widespread availability of high-quality telecommunications ~~service~~ *services* to all Californians.

(b) To focus efforts on providing educational institutions, health care institutions, community based organizations, and governmental institutions with access to advanced telecommunications services in recognition of their economic and societal impact.

(c) To encourage the development and deployment of new technologies and the equitable provision of services in a way ~~which~~ *that* efficiently meets consumer need and encourages the ubiquitous availability of a wide choice of state-of-the-art services.

(d) To promote economic growth, job creation, and the substantial social benefits that will result from the rapid implementation of advanced information and communications technologies by adequate long-term investment in the necessary infrastructure.

(e) To promote lower prices, broader consumer choice, and avoidance of anticompetitive conduct.

(f) To remove the barriers to open and competitive markets and promote fair product and price competition in a way that encourages greater efficiency, lower prices, and more consumer choice.

SEC. 2. Section 884 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to read:

884. (a) *It is the intent of the Legislature that any program administered by the commission that addresses the inequality of access to advanced telecommunications services by providing those services to schools and libraries at a discounted price should also provide comparable discounts to community based organizations for community technology programs.*

1 ***(b) For purposes of this section, a “community technology***
2 ***program” is a program provided by a community based, nonprofit***
3 ***organization that is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3)***
4 ***of the Internal Revenue Code that disseminates technology in local***
5 ***communities and trains local communities in the use of technology.***

